

floor and a wall, the device having a tray with an upper portion and a lower portion and a cover, each portion having at least one notch, the method comprising:

- (a) mounting the tray in a corner between the floor and the wall, the lower portion of the tray comprising a groove underneath the lower portion notch;
- (b) arranging the [length of] cable in the tray alongside the wall including laying the [length of] cable [along] at least partially inside the groove on the floor;
- (c) [determining if the notch at the upper portion of the tray is to be used to pass the length of cable and, if so, selectively routing the [length of] cable through at least one of the upper portion notch and the lower portion notch; and
- (d) closing the cover on the tray.

DS concl.

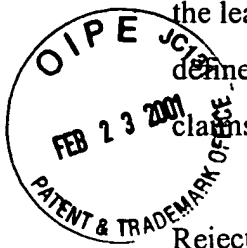
REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on December 18, 2000, the Examiner stated that claims 5, 7-14, 16, 20 and 22-24 are pending in the case. However, after reviewing the file, the Assignee believes that claims 5, 6, 7, 16, 18, 20 and 22-24 are currently pending and requests consideration of all of these claims. The cover letter stated that the Office Action was a final office action. However, such a final office action would be premature because the Examiner had not considered the limitations of claims 22-24 before the filing of the Continued Prosecution Application. Therefore, the Assignee is concurrently filing a Petition to Withdraw Final Office Action, a copy of which is enclosed. Although the Examiner has not specifically addressed independent claim 18, the patentability of claims 5, 18 and 22 and their dependent claims in view of Hukin are discussed below.

Claims 5, 6, 7, 16, 18 and 20

As amended, claims 5 and 18 each state that the arranging of the cable includes laying the cable at least partially inside a groove of a tray. The cable is selectively routed through at least one of a lower portion notch and an upper portion notch of the tray.

In contrast, Hukin depicts a conductor lead 11 that resides inside clips that the Examiner labels as being notches. However, the lead 11 does not reside at least partially inside a groove, and furthermore, Hukin neither teaches nor suggests selectively routing



the lead 11 through at least one of an upper portion notch and a lower portion notch, as defined in the claims. Therefore, for at least these reasons, the Assignee allowance of claims 5 and 18 and claims 6, 7, 16 and 20 that depend therefrom.

Rejections of Claims 22-24

The method of claim 22 includes selectively routing a cable through a notch in a first longitudinal edge of a tray and a notch in a second longitudinal notch of a tray. The first longitudinal edge is higher than the second longitudinal edge.

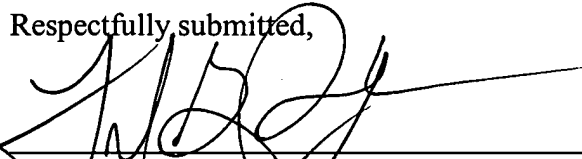
In contrast, Hukin does not teach or suggest a tray including a groove that is defined by first and second longitudinal edges; and selectively routing a cable through notches in these longitudinal edges. Therefore, for at least these reasons, the Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejections of claim 22 and claims 23 and 24 that depend therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Assignee requests a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Please credit any overpayments and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (MICE-0059-00).

2/20/01
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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